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MARK HOMINICK  
BACK IN THE GYM  
PAYING TRIBUTE  
TO TRAINER {page 4}



# PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

## SMITH, PINKETT DENY RUMOURS OF SEPARATION {page 10}



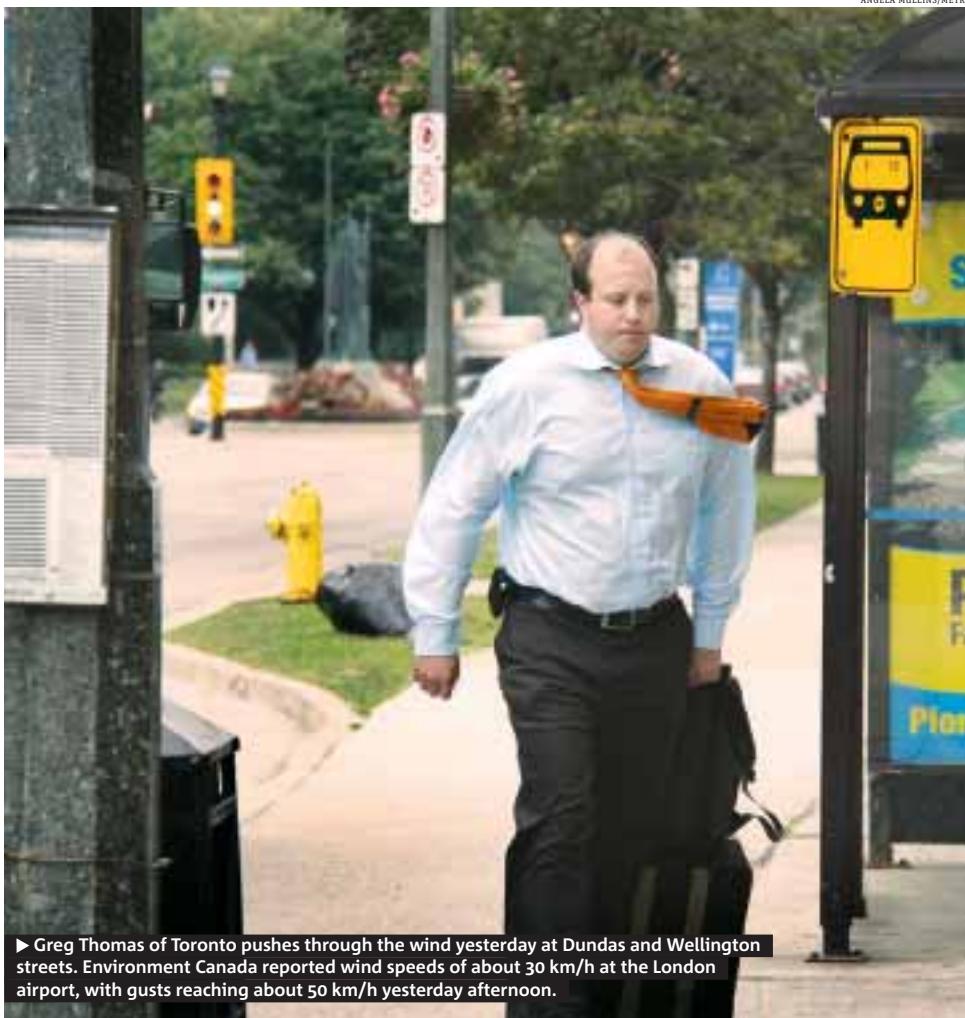
LONDON

# metro®

Thursday, August 25, 2011  
[www.metronews.ca](http://www.metronews.ca)



News worth sharing.



► Greg Thomas of Toronto pushes through the wind yesterday at Dundas and Wellington streets. Environment Canada reported wind speeds of about 30 km/h at the London airport, with gusts reaching about 50 km/h yesterday afternoon.

## Designer Shoe Clearance

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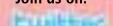
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**Moxie's.** Girl ... and boy

► Chrissy Soliman and Scott Mosey enjoy lunch outside the Covent Garden Market on a windy and hot afternoon yesterday. The pair are coworkers at Moxie's. Soliman is getting ready to return to Western in a couple of weeks where she will continue her studies in dentistry. Mosey works full time at Moxie's.

MIKE ARSENIAULT/FOR METRO

## Enjoying the dwindling dog days of summer

# Cross-lake swim in genes

- Jason Kloss is attempting to swim across Lake Huron on Saturday
- To donate and to follow Kloss's progress, visit [kloss2cross4cure.ca](http://kloss2cross4cure.ca)

 MIKE ARSENIAULT  
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA

"My grandfather did this swim 20 years ago to the day that I'm going to be completing my swim."

Jason Kloss speaks with steely determination in describing his grandfather's past effort to swim across one of the Great Lakes.

The 24-year-old Londoner will be embarking on a marathon swim of his own Saturday in support of cancer research, navigating 65 kilometres of open water in Lake Huron from



MIKE ARSENIAULT/FOR METRO

Port Sanilac, Mich. to Grand Bend.

"I'm (estimating) that my swim's going to take about 27 hours — it all depends on the weather," Kloss said. "Right now, the weather is looking great

**"People around me — parents of friends and family — have had cancer before, so I wanted to do my part (to raise money for a cure)." JASON KLOSS**

for my swim."

While Kloss will be swimming on his own and is forbidden from bracing himself against a boat during his journey — doing so would negate his effort — a support staff will be

following close behind to monitor his progress and provide food.

"I'm just really excited," Kloss said. "I've put a lot of time and effort into training for this event and I know that I'm ready and I'm going to kick ass on (Saturday)."

Kloss has been training five to six days a week for months now, both in the water and the gym preparing his body for the rigours of Lake Huron. He's also been working full-time at Canpages, training for the swim during his free time.

## Cities unite in requests for province

The 2011 Association of Municipalities of Ontario wrapped up in London yesterday.

The event brought municipal politicians and administration together from around the province to discuss various issues.

The three-day conference included keynote speeches from all three provincial party leaders.

The group made 12 requests for the Dalton McGuinty government, ranging from new revenues and legislation to changes in the arbitration system that usually does not favour municipalities.

London Mayor Joe Fontana says it's important municipalities unite with a single voice.

"Going into an election, there are several things we as municipalities need from the senior levels of government," he said.

AM980/AM980.CA

1  
news



Scientists find success fighting mosquito-borne dengue fever with ... mosquitoes? Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at [2dscan.com](http://2dscan.com).

On the web at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**Olivia Chow thanks the crowd who turned out to pay respects to her late husband, Jack Layton. Video at metronews.ca**

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## Local home builders get nod

Members of the London Home Builders' Association have been nominated for awards from the provincial body. Awards are handed out in 32 categories of building, design, sales and marketing. Winners will be announced at a gala next month in Toronto. Here are the London nominees:

- Auburn Homes
- Fusion Homes
- Oke Woodsmith Building Systems
- Rawlings Homes
- Woody's Custom Cabinetry
- METRO

# Hominick to fight for friend



► Prepares for UFC 140 without coach, the late Shawn Tompkins

 **JIM REYNO**  
@METRONEWS.CA

"One thing that all of us are going to be is Team Tompkins, and that's my focus."

With that in mind, Mark Hominick is back to work at the Adrenaline Training Center. The 29-year-old featherweight is confirmed for UFC 140 in December at the ACC in Toronto.

If only it were that simple. Shawn Tompkins, Hominick's coach, mentor and friend, died unexpectedly from a heart attack Aug. 14. He was 37 years old.

Hominick, along with Adrenaline co-owners Sam Stout and Chris Horodecki, had a special relationship with Tompkins.

"He was pretty much instrumental in not just our

**"He was the guy that I would lean on for anything, really. Ask questions, get answers, whatever I needed, he was always the go-to man."** MARK HOMINICK ON SHAWN TOMPKINS

careers, but in our lives... Sam, Chris and I, as well as many others at the gym," Hominick said. "He was the best man at my wedding.... He was kind of like everybody's best man."

They reopened the Dundas Street gym on Monday. Tompkins' father, Jack, will be visiting the Adrenaline this week to provide a "morale boost," in Hominick's words.

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www.khalilramal.onmpp.ca

## FALL FASHION: BREAK ALL THE RULES

### LONDON STYLE

SARAH FRANCIS  
METRO LONDON



I constantly seek style approval; whether it's from total strangers or my discerning three-year-old. So when my husband says things like, "I thought you weren't supposed to wear black with blue?" or people shoot sympathetic stares at my white jeans, I wish I could shout out, "Everyone calm down! This, here, is fine!"

With the approach of a new season, it's time we Londoners put outdated fashion myths to rest, once and for all. Since Mayor Joe Fontana still hasn't approved funding for fashion police, I've compiled a list of rules you can officially break this fall:

**Respect the colour wheel**  
As Duchess Kate has proven,

wearing black & blue is no longer a bruising faux-pas — whether it's brilliant cobalt or navy (yes, navy). As for black with brown? It's a combo favoured by the chic elite. In short, black is a neutral that goes with everything. Period. Next.

ANDREAS SJÖDIN/COURTESY H&M



► Ignore the haters:  
Black & brown look super chic when worn together.

#### Fall florals

Floral has always been a strictly spring-summer print — and yet, designers brightened up fall runways with loads of florals this year.

#### Dress for your age

If you've got a body, flaunt it. Fab arms? Go sleeveless à la Michelle Obama. Amazing gams? Don't hide your perfect pins. Dress for your body type rather than your age by highlighting your assets and downplaying your less-than-splendid bits to get on the short track to chic. Remember: Showing too much skin at any age is never chic.

Want more fall inspiration? Don't miss Kingsmill's Fall 2011 Top Trends event on Saturday Sept. 3 at 10:30 a.m.



For a longer version of this column, visit metronews.ca/london.

**No white after Labour Day**  
Winter white, as in off-white, used to be the only acceptable option for fall. This season, try out stark white jeans, turtle-necks or dresses paired with black. Any rules? Opt for heavyweight fabrics.

*Sarah Francis lives in Union and is the style-maven responsible for realliferunway.com.*

# For Jack, the Hill's last farewell

► Throngs mourn Layton ► 'It's a tragedy,' PM says ► In Toronto, the CN Tower to glow orange Saturday

 AMEN JAFRI  
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA  
METRO CANADA IN OTTAWA

They came by the hundreds — all ages, shapes and colours.

Throngs of Canadians lined up in front of the Peace Tower and around the East Block on Parliament Hill yesterday to pay their respects to Jack Layton.

By late afternoon, more than 1,500 people had filed past the NDP leader's flag-draped coffin in the foyer of the House of Commons.

Hélène Lapointe, an NDP provincial executive member in Dieppe, N.B., was one of the first to arrive at 10:30 a.m.

She was visiting her mother in Ottawa and her voice trembled as she recalled her memories of Layton, who died of cancer Monday.

"He came to MP Yvonne Godin's nomination in Acadie Bathurst, N.B., start-

## O Canada

- The Ottawa lineup was the country in microcosm.
- Blue-rinsed grandmothers rubbed shoulders with teens sporting pink mohawks.
- Bearded Sikhs stood beside giggling schoolgirls.
- There were families with toddlers in strollers, couples young, middle-aged and senior, clutches of friends, and singles lost in thought.

ed speaking French and said "Thanks to Hélène, my French is much better."

Lapointe had always stressed that MPs needed to be perfectly bilingual to run in the election.

Layton's body will be whisked back to Toronto late today. A state funeral takes place Saturday.

WITH FILES FROM  
THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Olivia Chow grieves by the casket of her husband, Jack Layton, on Parliament Hill yesterday.

# Tragic family lives again

A 12-year ordeal has ended for the family of a Canadian woman who was raped, murdered, stuffed into a suitcase and dumped at London's Heathrow Airport.

London police say Youseff Ahmed Wahid, 42, has been found guilty of murdering singer Fatima Kama.

"It represents a lot things for us," Fatima's father, Bouchaib Kama, 66, said in Montreal.

"The judge and jury in London were able to give us something we'd been waiting for for years."

Fatima Kama, 28, was born and raised in Morocco, but moved to Canada with her family in 1990.

In her last year she spent about eight months

## Killer on the run

- Wahid is expected to be sentenced in October and could be jailed for life.
- A former Kuwait Airways flight attendant, he had been on police radar from the beginning.
- He eluded authorities for more than a decade before police located him in Bahrain last year. He was arrested and extradited to Britain.

in Lebanon, where she was a singer at weddings and private functions.

Reports said she lived her life "like Holly Golightly," the socialite portrayed by Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast At Tiffany's.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## PM strikes gold, literally

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has already put his stamp on the country. Yesterday, he took a different tack — by stamping a \$1.8-million bar of gold with a maple leaf. Harper was visiting Meadowbank gold mine in Nunavut, on his annual weeklong northern tour.

# Police ask Ottawa: Let us be hackers

Crooks "feel invulnerable to carry out criminal activities."

DEPUTY CHIEF CONST.  
BOB DOWNIE

The request was in a resolution passed at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference in Windsor.

The chiefs say Canada lags behind other G8 countries on the issue.

Deputy Chief Const. Bob Downie from Saanich, B.C., said criminals have a secure means of communication that cannot be accessed by police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Polar bears invade crash site

Rotting food and strong winds are attracting hungry polar bears to the wreckage of a deadly

plane crash in the Arctic, police say.

The chartered First Air jet was carrying 2,250 kilograms of food when it crashed into a hill near the Resolute airport on Saturday.

Twelve people died and three survived.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Libya to benefit from dictator's assets



**ELISABETH BRAW**  
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA  
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON, ENGLAND

The U.S. will release some \$1.5 billion US in frozen Gadhafi assets to Libya's National Transitional Council, the State Department has announced. And rebels may soon face a windfall as other countries follow suit.

Switzerland and Britain have said they'll release frozen assets as soon as the

UN lifts sanctions against Libya. Assets frozen elsewhere in the EU will follow.

"We want to make their assets available to Libya's new regime and will do so when the situation stabilizes," EU foreign affairs spokesman Michael Mann told Metro.

How much money Col. Moammar Gadhafi, his family and his friends possess is anyone's guess. In the past several months, millions of dollars worth of funds have been frozen. But much



► The outside of Saif al-Islam Gadhafi's £1-million London mansion yesterday, where at least four people are squatting, neighbours told Metro.

more is thought to be hidden in overseas properties and companies. Distinguishing between assets belonging to the Gadhafis and the Libyan state is difficult.

Even so, the rebels can expect huge amounts of money. The U.S. alone has another \$30 billion in frozen Gadhafi assets.

"We have a plan ready for Day 1 when Gadhafi is gone," says Mann. "Given Libya's resources, it doesn't need a lot of financial assistance."

## Gadhafi fortune

- Properties in London's fashionable West End district.
- Shares in Pearson, owner of the Financial Times.
- A luxury resort in Spain.
- London headquarters of ConocoPhilips (owned by Gadhafi-controlled Libyan Investment Authority)

# Clashes punctuate search for Gadhafi

► Rebels may be running out of weapons but cannot claim 'true' victory until the long-time dictator is found ► NATO issued 46 strike missions on Tuesday

Scattered battles flared yesterday across the Libyan capital, with pro-regime snipers cutting off the road to Tripoli's airport while loyalist fighters launched repeated attacks on Moammar Gadhafi's captured Bab al-Aziziya compound.

While opposition fight-

ers claimed they had most of Tripoli under control, a defiant Gadhafi vowed from hiding that he would fight "until victory or martyrdom."

Few civilians were willing to venture outside. The streets were scattered with debris, while rebels

manned checkpoints.

But intense clashes broke out in the Abu Salim neighbourhood, which is thought to be one of the regime's final strongholds.

Gadhafi's foreign minister, Abdul Ati al-Obeidi, told British media that the dictator's rule "was over" and

that safe passage out of Libya was now unlikely.

In London, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said it was clear Gadhafi had lost control of most of the capital and called him on to "stop issuing delusional statements."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Reporters kidnapped in Libya

Italy's foreign ministry says four Italian journalists were kidnapped yesterday and their driver killed, apparently by Libyan regime loyalists.

on a highway 50 kilometres west of Tripoli.

Two journalists were from the Milan daily Corriere della Sera, one from Turin's La Stampa and one from Avvenire, a national Catholic paper.

The Avvenire reporter called Milan saying the four Italians were OK.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► Rebel fighters celebrate as they stand on top of the monument inside Moammar Gadhafi's compound in Tripoli yesterday. The rebels say they have now taken control of nearly all of the capital, but sporadic gunfire could still be heard yesterday, and Gadhafi loyalists fired shells and assault rifles at fighters who had captured the Libyan leader's personal compound Tuesday.



SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Man charged in alleged Torah scam

A man who claimed he travelled the globe rescuing Torahs as a "Jewish Indiana Jones" has been charged with mail fraud. Authorities say he duped contributors

to his charity. Menachem Youlus is charged in a federal criminal complaint released yesterday. He was released on \$100,000 bail in New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Celebration gone bust

Activists protested yesterday the arrest of former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, clouding the 20th anniversary celebrations of Ukraine's independence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Police detain a female activist protestor.

## Shuttle crash may delay next crew

A Russian space-station supply ship crashed into Siberia minutes after launch yesterday, rattling NASA and others without any bailout shuttles. The rocket failed barely a month after NASA's final space-shuttle flight. The accident threatens to delay the launch of a crew next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Star Wars soldiers storm Toronto

Stormtroopers scrubbed and shined vehicles for the public yesterday at the One-A-Minit Car Wash on Church Street in Toronto to promote Fan Expo, starting today and running until Aug. 28 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

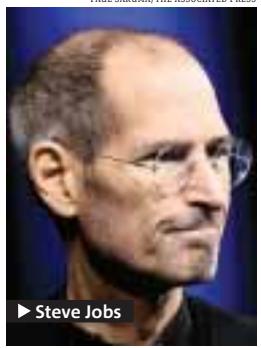
## Apple CEO resigns from post due to health issues

Steve Jobs, the mind behind the iPhone, iPad and other devices that turned Apple Inc. into one of the world's most powerful companies, resigned as the company's CEO yesterday, saying he can no longer handle the job.

The move appears to be the result of an unspecified medical condition for which he took an indefinite leave from his post in January.

Apple's chief operating officer, Tim Cook, has been named CEO.

In a letter addressed to Apple's board and the "Apple community," Jobs



said he "always said if there ever came a day when I could no longer meet my duties and expectations as Apple's

CEO, I would be the first to let you know. Unfortunately, that day has come."

Apple said Jobs was elected board chairman and Cook is becoming a member of its board.

The company said Jobs gave the board his resignation yesterday and suggested Cook be named the company's new leader.

The January leave was Jobs' third medical leave over several years.

He had previously survived pancreatic cancer and received a liver transplant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## France announces tax hikes, spending cuts

President Nicolas Sarkozy's government has bowed to economic reality, admitting its growth forecasts were overly rosy and announcing an austerity package of 11 billion euros in a bid to ensure that France doesn't miss a vital pledge to cut its deficit.

The government unveiled the package of spending cuts and tax increases yesterday, two weeks after France came under fire by investors who feared the country's high debt and deficit levels.

Prime Minister Francois Fillon said the austerity

package is vital for France to keep its pledge on deficit reduction and maintain its triple-A credit rating.

France has not managed to balance its budget in three decades. Sarkozy is vowing to hit deficit targets over the next three years..

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# WestJet plans to keep Fido flying

- Airline says hi-tech filter system keeps air fresh
- CMA recommends furry critters be kept in cargo
- Company says few allergy-related problems on flights

WestJet Airlines says it's not interested in banning Fluffy and Fido from airplane cabins.

The Canadian Medical Association is suggesting furry friends should travel in the cargo section of airplanes because they may present serious risks for people with pet-related allergies.

But the Calgary-based discount carrier says passengers are kept apart if they alert the airline ahead of time that they have allergies.

They also ask that those who take journeys

with pets let them know in advance as well.

To combat any potential issues, WestJet also says its planes are equipped with good air filters that efficiently eliminate allergens.

Another option the airline presents to passengers with allergies is the chance to be placed on a different flight — one with no dogs or cats on board.

WestJet says that, over the course of the past year and a half, it has only had a handful of allergy-related incidents reported on

the thousands of flights the airline oversees on a daily basis.

Air Canada had implemented a policy between 2006 and 2009 banning pets from being stowed in the cabin, but later reversed it.

The head of the Alberta Medical Association is throwing his support behind the idea of a ban.

Dr. Patrick White points out that it's pretty hard to get air travellers to a hospital quickly if they have a serious allergic reaction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Google pays millions for drug ads

Google Inc. has agreed to pay \$500 million US to settle a U.S. government investigation into the Internet search leader's distribution of online ads from Canadian pharmacies illegally selling prescription drugs to American consumers, a U.S. attorney said yesterday.

The settlement means the Internet search leader will not face criminal prosecution for accusations that it improperly profited from the ads. Federal officials say Google was aware of the ad system since 2003.

The agency forecasts that an average 183,200 units will be built in 2011, with about 183,900 new homes being built next year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## New home growth is expected

More new homes will be built than originally thought this year, due to strong employment and low mortgage rates, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said yesterday.

The agency forecasts that an average 183,200 units will be built in 2011, with about 183,900 new homes being built next year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Market moment

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# A PLEA TO STOP A CYCLE OF ABUSE

## HE SAYS ...

**JOHN MAZEROLLE**  
METRO



Now that I've been a cyclist for a few months, I know the group of people on Earth I hate most are other cyclists.

My disdain for my two-wheeled counterparts falls somewhere between Libyans' hatred of Gadhafi and New Democrats' hatred of Christie Blatchford (a tight squeeze, I know). But it's true: You can all bike at full speed under bridges with four-foot clearances, for all I care.

The only positive thing I can say about the lot of you is "Thanks for making me feel unique." Because I am apparently the only Canadian cyclist who follows the rules of the road.

I stop at stop lights (gasp). I signal my turns (shock). I do not assume "shared trail" means "cycles moving at 40 km/h and human speed bumps leaping out of the way."

The other day I approached a crosswalk with a person in it. The wheel-shocked pedestrian, accustomed to years of (the cycle of) abuse, went into full duck-and-cover mode, like a Brit during the Blitz. When she looked up from her huddle to realize I had stopped, she looked baffled, then sheepishly said, "Sorry!" as she passed in front of me.

I yelled after her: "DON'T APOLOGIZE! YOU HAD THE RIGHT OF WAY!"

You know you've become a cyclist-hating cyclist when you start yelling positive things at pedestrians.

Conversely, rarely a ride goes by without me yelling something slightly less positive at another cyclist — usually something like, "THE LIGHT IS RED, YOU [profanity] DOG [obscenity] EATING [vulgarity]!"

Then I spend the rest of the trip cycling slow so I don't catch up with that guy.

I'm not asking for puritanical devotion to the rules: I'd just like more cyclists to stop riding like they're in a Farrelly Brothers movie called *Blind Cyclist*, where our hero ends up covered in newspapers and dead birds as he plows through crowds of people, a strip club and a perfect wedding.

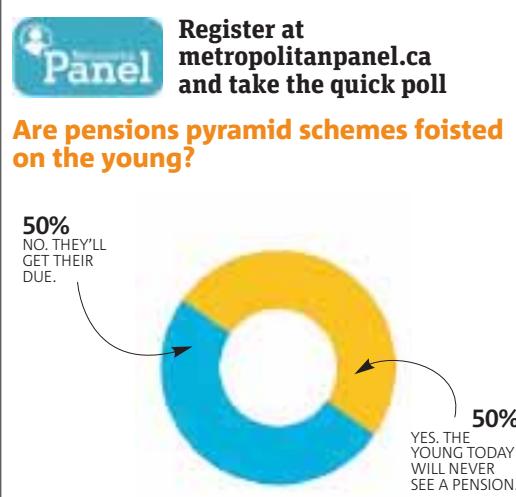
We live in a society where anything that slows cars down, including ambulances and inertia, is deemed part of the "War on the Car." Bikes are No. 1 on the list of irrational targets. When I argue back to motorists, I'd like to have some moral high ground.

So, please, let's stop the cycle of abuse together. And if any cyclists don't understand where I'm coming from, I'd recommend wearing your helmet at all times. You probably need it.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at [metronews.ca/hesays](http://metronews.ca/hesays)



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## Letters

### JACK LAYTON.

Jack Layton was a tireless and down-to-earth champion for social justice, homelessness, equality and personal liberty.

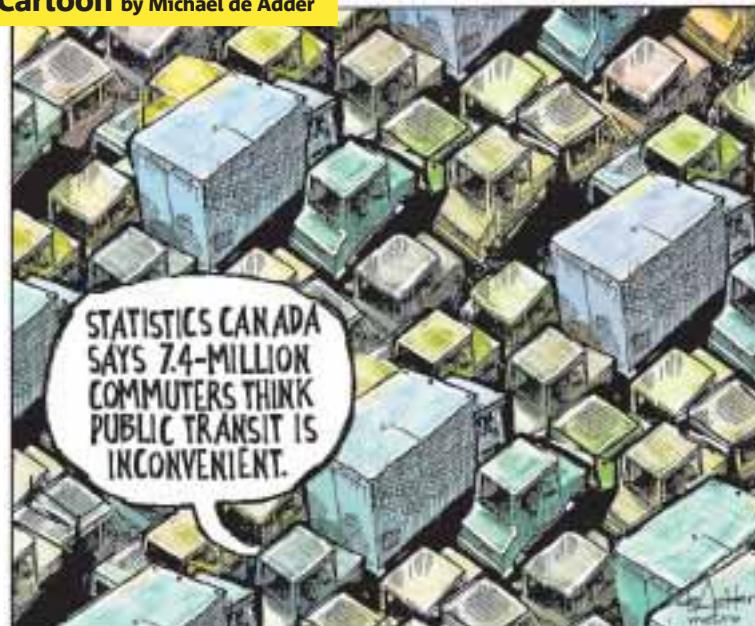
His tenacity and energy has never been seen before in Canadian politics, for which he will be sorely missed. Although we can never replace Jack Layton, all progressive politicians can honour his vision by continuing his call to action for love, hope and optimism.

**JARED EVANS**  
VANCOUVER

Mr. Layton should be remembered as a leader who has played a greater role in bringing a lot of Quebec separatists into his party to work for the unity of the country — something no other politician did. At a time when right-wing politics have been gaining momentum, Mr. Layton managed to win big in the last election, showing that Canadians still believe in a more balanced approach. He was a man of greater charisma, a man of hope and justice and a leader who did not look down at the man of the street but looked at everyone with the respect each one deserved.

**ABUBAKAR KASIM**  
TORONTO

## Cartoon by Michael de Adder



## WEIRD NEWS

### Inmate's protest takes flight

An inmate trying to get attention for his case paid a pilot to fly a banner over a New York City jail complex.

The New York Post says Vadim Vassilenko rented the Cessna 172 Skyhawk on Tuesday.

The 30-metre banner read:

"V. Vassilenko jailed 5+ yrs. — no trial — is this legal?"

He's been at the Manhattan Detention Complex since 2007 on charges of selling stolen credit card numbers as part of an international cyber-crime ring.

The plane rents for \$1,250 US for two hours, and the pilot says Vassilenko had someone on the outside wire him the money.

Vassilenko faces deportation after his case is adjudicated.

His immigration lawyer, Merrill Cohen, says his client wants to be with his family in Ukraine.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Local tweets



- **@Pecker17:** Wow #downtown #ldnont got some craaaaaaaaaazy people!
- **@careysonoxford:** Reppin' East London for the #fan-shawe students!! come party with us this September as we bring you the best events in the east end!
- **@HunterCrowther:** Do they come with the HGH or is that sold separately? RT @normanjames Any Jays fans in #ldnont want a pair of Troy Glaus figurines?
- **@BrentCornwall:** Look out #ldnont : CPA students just

finished exams! Geek count() at pubs just went up.

► **@craighunter\_:** FYI: @MayorFontana is a fake account. Shucks. #ldnont #uwo

► **@samleah12:** is it too soon to start packing? #uwo

► **@USC\_StudentLife:** first year students can purchase okits on-line at Western for the first time. No line ups if purchased on-line [www.oweek.net](http://www.oweek.net) #uwo

► **@JamesBetterley:** 10 days until I'm back #ldnont. Now to figure out where I'm going to park...

# Showing love to the artists

► Supporting local talent is one of the themes of weekend exhibition at The Met

## BACKSTAGE PASS

AMANDA GRANT  
METRO LONDON



The transition from construction worker to artist was a quick one for Jesse Watson.

The Winnipeg native moved to Sarnia about a year ago for a construction job. This weekend, Watson will be one of 25 artists featured in a juried art show at The Metropolitan Market.

"I've been painting and drawing for most of my life," Watson says. "But I started to take it really seriously in the last five months."

The 22-year-old specializes in portraiture, painting and drawing images of friends and family. He says The Met provides a platform for him to showcase his work, and encourages others to do the same.

"If someone wants to participate in the artistic community, then this is a great opportunity," Watson says.

"Each week, I see so much talent at The Met and I think the art show is going to draw a huge crowd."

The theme of the weekend long exhibition is: "Support your local artists before they move to Toronto."

### Support Sierra

► On Friday night APK Live and SHIFT, a London-based sustainable housing initiative, will host a fundraiser to help build a self-sustained school for displaced orphans in Sierra Leone.

► The event will feature performances by The Riderless and the Pasi Gunguwo Ensemble, as well as a silent auction and photography installation. Tickets for the event are available at Grooves and at the door for \$5. It starts at 6 p.m.

to," blatantly addressing the creative brain drain many mid-sized cities experience.

"The Met strives to create a community where talented local artisans are supported," says Katie Wilhelm, the building manager of The Metropolitan Market.

"When we start to see this support dwindle, that's when we lose both our seasoned artists and the new ones that we are training in our post-secondary schools."

For local artists, the juried component of the art show pushes them to produce and showcase some of their best work.

"It requires artists to step-up a little bit, put their best foot forward," says



► This weekend, art will be on full display at The Metropolitan Market.

Watson. "I really want to get my stuff out there and this encourages other people to do the same."

The Met art show will run Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. at the Metropolitan Market on Dundas St. between Richmond and Talbot streets.

At the end of the weekend, prizes will be awarded to the top three artists.

**Triple Threat at Artfusion 18**  
Saturday marks the opening of Artfusion 18, an urban art show featuring the work of local graffiti artists.

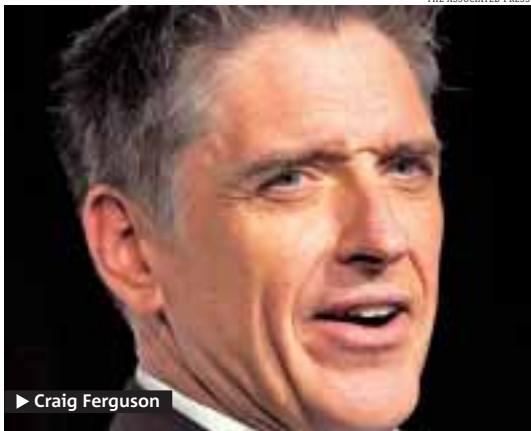
This exhibition is being



held at Chaucer's Pub on Carling Street, where all three rooms of the venue will be filled with live music and visual art.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the art will be on display until Sept. 2.

## FBI investigate threatening letter sent to Ferguson



► Craig Ferguson

Craig Ferguson managed to crack a few jokes on his talk show Tuesday after receiving an envelope packed with white powder that turned out to be harmless.

"Today someone sent an envelope packed with white powder to the show. I offered to test it, but they said 'no,'" Ferguson quipped during a studio taping of The Late Late Show.

The taping went on as scheduled after the show received a threatening letter sent to Ferguson.

Police Det. Gus Villanueva declined to discuss the nature of the threat against the talk show host, saying only that it was sent from overseas.

Two people at CBS Television City, where the show is filmed, were temporarily held in isolation after being exposed to the powder around 3 p.m.

They were released after a hazardous materials team screened the powder and found it to be benign.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said the agency

was working with police to find out who sent the letter.

The brief scare appeared to have rattled Ferguson's nerves.

"I was going to come out and talk about the earthquake, but I can't do that now," he said about the magnitude 5.8 quake that struck the East Coast.

"Because the earthquake only scared millions of people on the East Coast, but the white powder did something much worse. It scared me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



### News in brief



Ben Stiller is being honoured for his comedic contributions by the British Academy of Film and Television. The group's Los Angeles branch says Stiller will receive the Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yearbook photos of Lady Gaga, Ryan Reynolds, Bradley Cooper, other stars published online.

# Smith, Pinkett deny marriage on the rocks

► Couple says they are not separating, despite reports of trouble in their relationship ► Source says there are 'significant problems' in marriage

Will Smith and Jada Pinkett were quick to respond to reports that they are separating.

"Although we are reluctant to respond to these types of press reports, the rumors circulating about our relationship are completely false."

"We are still together, and our marriage is intact," the couple said in a statement to E! News.

But a source tells TMZ that while the couple hasn't made the decision to separate, there are "significant problems in their marriage" that they are trying to work out, and that separation is still "definitely a possibility."

● METRO

**"The rumours circulating about our relationship are completely false."**

WILL SMITH AND JADA PINKETT



## Carey to guest judge on X-Factor

It looks like Mariah Carey will be a part of the U.S. edition of the X-Factor after all, but she won't be sitting behind the judges' table.

"Mariah is definitely confirmed to be a part of X Factor," a source says, explaining that Carey will be a guest of a judge instead of a judge herself.

● METRO



## Jones isn't a model TV mom

While January Jones is getting ready to be a mother in real life, she isn't getting high marks as a TV mom. Jared Gilmore, who played her son on the last season of Mad Men, told TV Guide magazine that his successor should "be careful around January. She's not as approachable as the others. She's really serious about what she does."

● METRO



## SJP's son eyes acting career

Sarah Jessica Parker admits that James Wilkie, her eight-year-old son with husband Matthew Broderick, is itching to get into the family business and become an actor.

"I don't want him to do it until after he goes to college," she tells Parade

magazine.

"But part of me thinks maybe it's better if he knows the truth now about how hard it is to be a working actor."

"I don't know if he grasps what it took to get us here."

● METRO

### Celebrity tweets



"I found myself humming My Heart Will Go On today. What the hell happened to me?"  
@joelmchale



"Totally forgot how good guitar hero is. Haven't played in years but I used to kill it on expert."



"So much going on in the world. The 6 most popular stories on the Huffington Post are about Kim Kardashian. Color me confused."



"Disneyland may be the happiest place on earth, but it's also the most motorized wheelchair place on earth."

## Fox ditches Monroe's 'bad energy'

Megan Fox says she's removing the massive portrait of Marilyn Monroe tattooed on her forearm because it caused "negative energy," according to Hollyscoop.

"It's a negative character, as she suffered from personality disorders and was bipolar," Fox explains.



## BACK TO SCHOOL



## Cool means ... technology

► Kids clamouring for e-readers with high functionality ► Tablet explosion hitting schools

What's on top of the school supply list this year? It isn't T-shirts and tennis shoes. It's the other T — for mobile tech.

Kids as young as elementary age are looking for smartphone upgrades, while the college set is sussing out the explosion in tablets, said Craig Johnson, president of the retail consulting and

research firm Customer Growth Partners in New Canaan, Conn.

"The single most important thing is the acceleration of technology for back to school."

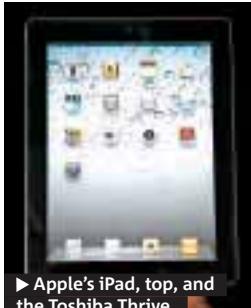
Kids don't get excited about a new lunch box these days, or a new backpack. Cool means technology," he said.

That means e-readers with high functionality like highlighting, underlin-

ing, pagination and touch-screens.

The new Nook has a 15-centimetre (six-inch) touchscreen and crisp, clear print for reading in bright light, tech analyst Andrea Smith told reporters at a recent Consumer Electronics Association trade show. It also indicates how many pages to the end of a chapter and has received praise for long battery life.

Back-to-school tech also means tablets. Once haltered Apple ground, iPad 2 competitors are everywhere this season. Apple is



In addition to the iPad 2, Smith suggests the 25-cm (10-inch) Toshiba Thrive for back to school. It runs on Android, has two USB ports and an SD card reader.

Tablets are cool, but are they practical for actual school work? That might have everything to do with the popularity of blue-tooth-enabled keyboard add-ons, including the new one Smith and Morris like from Logitech with a case that easily turns into a tablet stand. Toshiba has a keyboard, too, also sold separately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

 In the simple reuse category,

Pottery Barn Teen sells full-zip, water-resistant fabric homework holders in a variety of tween-girl patterns, from peace signs to zebra stripes. There's a three-ring binder inside and a front zip flap for quick access.

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► A Post-it flag pen, top, and Pottery Barn's homework holder.



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# Stock up on supplies



**ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK**  
FOR METRO

Pencils, papers, teacher's looks ... indeed it's that time of year when back-to-school supply shopping has hit.

So what's hot in the classroom this fall?

First, forget your plain old ballpoint pens — writing implements are now bendable, sparkly, smelly, stretchy and more. And to really express your personal style, everything from pens and pencils to lunch bags and



backpacks are covered with eye-catching designs. "We have Tony Hawk, the skateboarder, notebooks and other items designed with him in mind," says Steve Grebenc, a general manager for a west-end, Toronto-based Staples. Lunch bags and laptop bags (such as the PKG line of bags) are also breaking out of their neutral style colours.



► A Rubbermaid FilterFresh Bottle, top, is available at Real Canadian Superstores and Loblaw Great Food Stores for \$9.99. The Thermos Plaid Tote lunch bag, top right, is available at Wal-Mart for \$16.99. Protect your laptops with PKG bags (\$44.99-\$49.99), available at Future Shop, Best Buy and other retailers.

► Binders are a must-have for back-to-school supplies. Staples has Tony Hawk related items, including flash drives, below right.

"We have a few new lines with vibrant colours that appeal to the younger grades," says Grebenc.

Lunch bags also continue to move into lunch purses, such as Thermos' Fashion Lunch Tote bags. Don't like the bags you see? Pick up a Tattoo line of bags, which are black and white in design, but come with markers so your little

Van Gogh can colour them himself or herself. And thanks in part to Litterless



Lunch movements in some schools, Grebenc notes the reusable trend continues with more options for Thermoses and water bottles.

Durability is key with



## To-do list

- While must-have items for school can vary grade to grade (high school students need locks while elementary school students don't generally need them), here's a list to get you started.
- Check your local office supply store or school to see if they have supply recommendations.)
- Paper
- Pencils, pens/markers/pencil crayons
- Binders and duo tangs
- Calculator
- Erasers
- Lunch bag and water bottle
- Staplers and staples
- Pencil sharpener
- Notebooks
- Glue and scissors

school supplies, which makes Better Binders a smart pick. Need more in a binder? Newer options include handled binders with multiple file folders inside.

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## Put your best foot forward

Who doesn't love back to school shopping? But before heading out, make note of these hot trends to stock your closets with.

In colours and prints for fall, there are three things to remember, says Julianna Smith, a Toronto-based blogger for Yorkdale mall.

► Reebok's ZigTech shoes for children range in price from \$59.99-\$79.99.

"Many summer trends are staying around, so bright colours like lime green, bright orange and cobalt blue are making their way into fall," says Smith.

Other hot must-haves include python and snakeskin-printed accessories and those hot, metallics such as gold and silver.

For children, Old Navy's Motorcycle Boots can incorporate the look and keep their legs covered during lunch time play.

Also for the younger-than-10-year set, laceless shoes continue to appear on store shelves in bright pinks, fuschias, greens and blues, and shoes that including breathable mesh to endure hard recess play (such as Reebok's new ZigTech line of children's running shoes).

► **ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK**

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life

## Men's pick

Liz Earle  
Hand Repair

Chaps, we're aiming this one at you because women don't need to be preached at about the virtues of soft hands. Liz Earle's echinacea, vitamin E and beta-carotene-infused cream is a handy (sorry) product to protect against chapped skin and damaged cuticles, keeping you looking kempt and presentable for the ladies.

RICHARD PECKETT



## LIZ EARLE

\$20, lizearle.com



Material Girl model  
Kelly Osbourne heading north

FALL  
TRENDS  
FOR LESS

## TAILORING

Topman black textured skinny suit, \$250, topman.com

COLOUR  
POP

H&M chinos, \$50, hm.com



## CONTRAST/HYBRID

Ksubi classic denim jacket, \$327, asos.com

Runway trends  
for the real world

RICHARD  
PECKETT  
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA  
METRO WORLD NEWS

► Don't be a fashion victim as you wade your way through the ever deepening pool of trends ► Refer to this breakdown of the best new ideas worth buying into for fall

TAILORING  
SKINNY, SLOUCHY, BAGGY  
AND BOXY - THERE'S A  
CUT FOR EVERY TASTE

Dolce & Gabbana and Giorgio Armani among others beat the stuffiness out of tailoring with the zeal of teenage rioters. Every cut, twist and pattern was on show from '40s to noughties. The one downside of choice is that you can end up getting it very wrong. So think about your shape before you go all '70s Gucci on your look.

COLOUR  
MIX UP THE  
MONOCHROME WITH A  
COLOUR POP

Just when you thought the catch phrase "colour pop" had lost its fizz, it returns in blinding technicolour. Jil Sander, Hermès and Burberry rolled with everything from lurid brights to retro oranges on styles from knitwear to outer-wear. Get it right, and a punch of colour can really ramp up the feistiness.

HYBRID  
SOUPED-UP  
CLASSICS

We're talking pimped out clothing here. Dries Van Noten gave classic jackets fur lapels and Louis Vuitton worked quilting into formal coats. Yes, it's ostentatious, but that gives your look a distinguished edge. The pitfalls come when you go over the top like the lads who go overkill on the alloys while revamping their car – it can look frightfully cheap.

## Menswear for Moon

Moon is marking its first anniversary and expanding the brand's offerings in the process.

Menswear will now be in the mix within the affordable apparel line with the introduction of its autumn-winter 2011 collection.



The debut pieces featured last year focused on women, with streamlined separates designed to be versatile for everyday wear as well as building blocks in the modern wardrobe.

The menswear line includes T-shirts, sport coats,



to \$175.  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Brady, Ugg team up

Football star Tom Brady has a new partnership off the field with Ugg Australia.

The New England Patriots quarterback has been named the first endorser of the global footwear brand.



The three-time Super Bowl champ will launch a multi-year collaboration with the brand beginning with its fall ad campaign, in addition to consulting on product inspiration for future seasonal collections.

The collaboration will include casual footwear as well as select accessories.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DESIGN  
CENTRE

**KARL LOHNES**  
HOME@  
METRONEWS.CA

There's good news about the fall 2011 trends — they are easy to incorporate into your existing decor and don't have to cost the moon.

Warm grey tones help to cool down all the golden taupe colours while trendy brights add new life to colourless spaces.

Here's a rundown of this season's most important decor trends to bring home.

### Want a deal?

I am thrilled to have curated today's collection of trend-inspired home products with HomeSav, the members-only online shopping club.

► Check out homesav.com: Each item in the collection was chosen by me and will be available to buy at up to 80 per cent off the regular retail price. The sales start today!

# Fall trends easy to live with

#### New neutrals:

You may have already heard that grey is on the A-list with decorators and designers as a new neutral colour.

We've seen the popularity of grey in the fashion world for sometime so it's natural that it will make its way into the home.

Adding grey to your existing colour scheme will help cool down the overall look of a room, which is key this season for the neutrals.

All versions of grey (and all tones from light to dark) are trendy.

I stay away from the steel-



blue grey tones as they remind me too much of the greys that were popular in the 1980s.

The new grey is warmer — think flannel grey suiting, putty or smoke as ways to describe this new neutral.

It's a grey tone that's easy to live with and welcome as a long-term friend.



► Go for grey with pops of yellow and mulberry.

laundry bags turned into pillows are other ideas.

No need to scour the flea markets — these looks can be seen in trendy home decor stores for fall.

**Pop of colour:** For the past 10 years, popular decor colours have taken from the muted shades like wedgewood blue, sage green and cranberry.

The perfect complement to all the new grey neutral tones are a few shocking 'wake me up' colours.

My favourite one is citron yellow. Wherever you may have used green or gallery white you can use yellow.

Another great choice is mulberry — a purple tone with a touch of pink and a splash of blue in it.

It looks great with espresso



brown wood furniture and deep grey painted walls.

A colour like citron will wake up a contemporary room while mulberry helps soothe a traditional space and take away from the masculinity of grey.

Another trend to consider is mixing textures.

The slub of linen on a sofa, the plush of velvet on an ottoman or the smoothness of silk woven into a rug or on a pillow are great ways shake up a room and appeal to both your sight and touch.

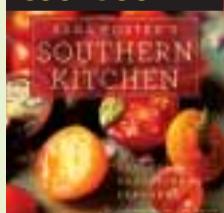
A designer friend once gave me a great rule for mixing alternate styles: 70 per cent of your furnishings and accessories should be of your favourite style and the remaining 30 percent should be different.

**Mix and match:** The overall look this fall is one of collection — mixing and matching styles together while using colour as a common denominator.

A square 1960s inspired side table beside a traditional sofa with a modern painting hung above — it's all about getting a mix of styles to give a room personality.

When I find an interesting lamp, chair or table it must have one criteria; "does this look like it has history or story to it?"

### Weekly Cookbook



Sara Foster's love for Southern fare began in her grandma's kitchen. Now, the author offers nearly 200 contemporary interpretations of classic dishes in her book Sara Foster's Southern Kitchen: Soulful, Traditional, Seasonal (Random House, 2011).

The book is divided into sections that include Hearty Breakfasts, Birds, Grits and Rice, and more. It includes recipes for Shrimp Jambalaya, Roasted Tomato Grits with Country Ham and Cracklings, and Molasses-Bourbon Pecan Pie, among others.

# Southern Comfort

► Want guilt-free ribs? ► It's possible with a few simple alterations



MATTHEW MEAD / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eat enough ribs, and you won't be able to see your own. The calories on a typical plate of barbecue ribs can surge to more than 900 calories. To combat the fat, these are made in the oven with baby back ribs, which are the leanest cut of pork ribs as they come from the back, not belly.

#### Preparation:

1 Heat oven to 220 C (425 F). Set a 60-cm (24-inch) sheet of heavy foil on a rimmed baking sheet.

2 Season ribs generously with salt and pepper.

3 In bowl combine sweet and smoky rub, liquid smoke, ketchup, balsamic vinegar, onion and garlic. Add ribs to bowl and toss to coat. Transfer ribs and marinade to

#### Ingredients:

- 1 rack baby back ribs (12 ribs), about 1 kg (2 lb) total, trimmed of all visible fat, cut into 4 equal pieces
- Salt and black pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sweet and smoky rub
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) liquid smoke
- 250 ml (1 cup) reduced-sugar ketchup
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- 1 large Spanish onion, chopped
- 12 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 stalks rosemary

foil, then top it with rosemary stalks. Place another sheet of foil over meat. Fold edges of bottom sheet of foil and crimp together with top sheet to make package.

4 Place in oven and bake 30 mins. Reduce heat to 140 C (275 F) and bake until tender, about 45 mins. Spoon some sauce from foil packet over ribs to serve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS / ROCCO DISPIRITO



## Quoted



**"Hopefully, Peyton will be back, but if he's not maybe I can be one of the guys that can help this ball club."**

QUARTERBACK KERRY COLLINS WHO AGREED TO TERMS ON A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS YESTERDAY. COLLINS IS THE LIKELY STARTER IF PEYTON MANNING HASN'T COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM OFF-SEASON NECK SURGERY WHEN THE SEASON OPENS SEPT. 11

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# The mystery of Pittsburgh

► Fans worried about winter without Crosby ► Many wondering if captain is in worse shape than is being said

Sidney Crosby's health issues are making for a very unsettled late Pittsburgh summer.

Nearly a quarter-century since The Mysteries of Pittsburgh was a best-selling book, the region's hockey fans are dealing with another riddle wrapped inside an enigma.

How badly is Crosby still hurting after sustaining what appeared to be multiple concussions only days apart in January? Will his lengthy layoff stretch into the new season? And when No. 87 finally does play, will he again be hockey's best player?

The answers don't appear to be forthcoming anytime soon, and that's making the Penguins' fan base as nervous as an overtime Game 7.

Since leaving town nearly four months ago, Crosby hasn't said anything publicly about his persistent post-concussion symptoms. The Penguins aren't saying much, either, if only because they don't know much. Even some of Crosby's own teammates are privately wondering why they aren't getting more information.

"I can't wave a wand and tell you how it's going to play out," said Penguins coach Dan Bylsma, who said the team might not get a true reading of Crosby's status until training camp starts in mid-September.

**"We haven't heard from Sid since he left town and, while it's his off-season, they (the Penguins) seem to be unsure, too ... (leading) fans to believe that they're hiding something or there's something deeper."**

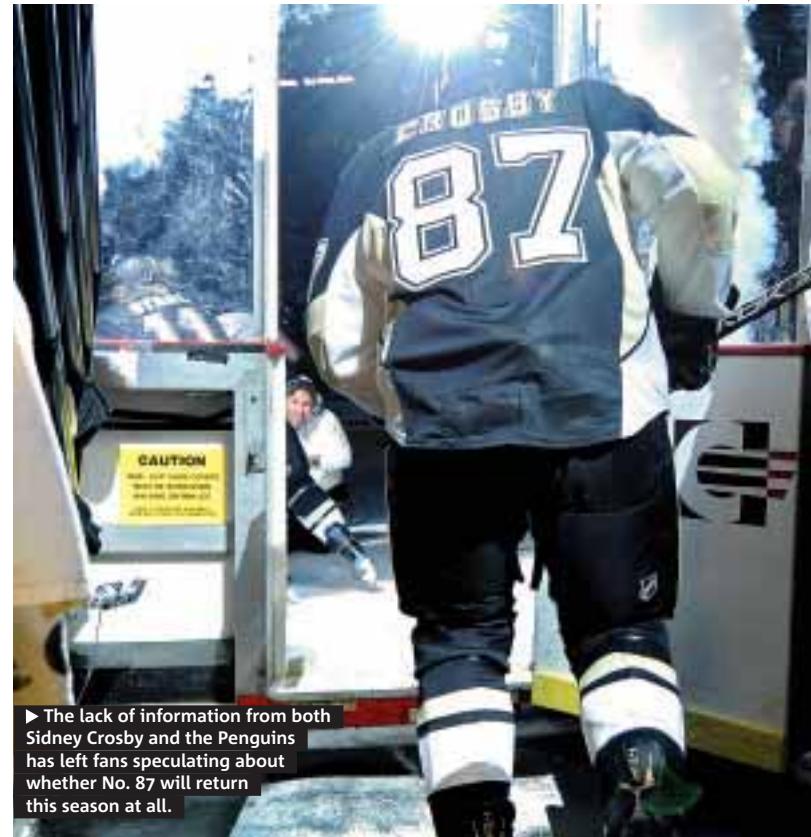
PITTSBURGH TALK SHOW HOST  
KEN LAIRD

At a time of the year when Pittsburghers generally are focused on the soon-to-start Steelers season, many are on edge because Crosby still isn't healthy eight months after being hurt.

"I'm worried," said Brian Smith, a 23-year-old Duquesne University graduate school student from Pittsburgh.

"I worked in the concussion lab at my undergrad school, and concussions can be serious, especially when you've gotten two in a row like that. They can really mess you up. He definitely needs to take his time. I want him to come back, but I don't want him to ruin the rest of his life."

Smith fears Crosby's case is less predictable because it now appears the Penguins captain had concussions in separate games four days apart in January.



► The lack of information from both Sidney Crosby and the Penguins has left fans speculating about whether No. 87 will return this season at all.

## Camp concerns

Sidney Crosby is still working out, and neither he nor the Penguins are saying if he is skating at a pace consistent with a player about to report to camp.

- If there's much of a delay once camp opens, then the Oct. 6 opener at Vancouver becomes doubtful.
- Penguins coach Dan Bylsma remains positive, saying, "Sidney's progressed nicely this summer, he's had a long summer."

After being shut down for a few weeks after Pittsburgh's first-round loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning, Crosby resumed his off-sea-

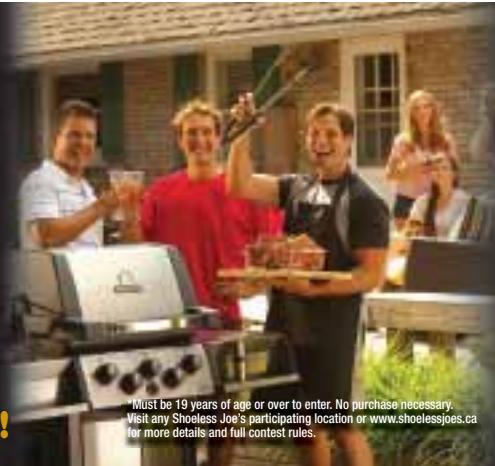
son workouts in his native Nova Scotia.

But as the workouts intensified, the symptoms returned. Penguins general

manager Ray Shero, who has been in contact with Crosby, isn't sure exactly what they were.

"If he's not ready for the start of the season, I'm worried for the Penguins for sure," said Nick Barone, 20, a former hockey player for Bethel Park (Pa.) High School. "I don't think they could go a whole season without Crosby. A lot of people will be worried if Crosby's not out there."

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# Skinner ready for the spotlight

► Last year's rookie of the year returns for second season with a much higher profile ► Canes GM praises 19-year-old's 'mental toughness'

What can Jeff Skinner do for an encore?

In one form or another that question will be asked again and again as the NHL's reigning rookie of the year settles into his second season with the Carolina Hurricanes.

Skinner exceeded all expectations a year ago by topping 30 goals and established a new standard to live up to in the process. However, those who know the 19-year-old believe he's more than capable of handling the added attention and pressure.

"This is a young man that has a special mental toughness and approach to the game and I don't see that being an issue," Carolina general manager Jim Rutherford said Wednesday.

"He's a guy that I least worry about in the way he prepares himself — I've learned that real quickly in the short year I've known him and we've had him," added Rutherford. "I look forward to him getting here for camp and

**30**

In the last decade, only Jeff Skinner and Sidney Crosby have scored 30 goals as an 18 year old.

look forward to him carrying on his good season from last year."

It's often easier said than done. Buffalo Sabres defenceman Tyler Myers and Columbus Blue Jackets goalie Steve Mason, the two Calder Trophy winners before Skinner, each struggled as sophomores.

The Hurricanes are toying with the idea of giving Skinner more responsibility this season. His transition to the NHL was made a little easier with a move from centre to the wing and there's been much internal debate about what position — and what line — best suits him.

"There's so many different conversations and so many different options," said Rutherford. "I would

suspect at some point that Jeff Skinner and Eric Staal are going to play together — so they both can't play centre and they can both play the wing."

Even after Carolina fell just short of the playoffs in April, Skinner kept busy. He represented Canada at the IIHF World Hockey Championship in Slovakia and quickly jumped into workouts under Gary Roberts after returning to North America. This week he is among 20 NHLers participating in the BioSteel hockey camp as a final tuneup before training camp begins.

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"With the way our season ended last year, it's not hard to get motivated," Skinner said after a yoga session yesterday morning.

Motivation has rarely been an issue for the soft-spoken teenager, whom Roberts says was the leanest player to work under him last summer.

Skinner picked right up where he left off after scoring 31 goals and put-

ting up 63 points in his rookie season.

"This kid is a wonderful, wonderful young man who does his work every day," said Roberts. "He just quietly goes about his business. He hides in the corner of the gym, kind of sneaks in and does his sets and sneaks back out."

With the start of his second training camp fast approaching, Skinner acknowledges that there will be some added pressure this year.

However, he expects it to be offset by the experience he's gained over the last 12 months.

"Thinking back to last summer and all the things that you have going on, you're getting to camp not sure where you're going to be," said Skinner. "You're living in a hotel and you're just trying to make the team. This time it's going to be fun going into camp knowing the expectations sort of put on me."

"Hopefully I rise to the challenge."

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► Jeff Skinner poses for a portrait during last year's all-star festivities.

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## LABATT PARK — BETTER WITH AGE

MIKE ARSENAULT  
FOR METRO NEWS

If baseball stadiums were jewels, then Labatt Park would be the Heart of the Ocean — before the old lady threw it into the water at the end of Titanic.

For a fan, there's nothing like passing through the wrought-iron gate at the stadium entrance and seeing the imposing façade of Labatt Park's grandstand peeking through the cluster of trees along the road.

You can gaze up at the brick exterior as Roman citizens would have done thousands of years ago upon entering the Colosseum.

The immaculate condition of the stadium makes it hard to believe that it's 134 years old. I'm sure most Hollywood starlets would

## Show some love

Labatt Park is in the final round of voting to be named Canada's Favourite Ballpark. Visit baseball.ca to cast your ballot before voting ends Sept. 6.

love to have the nipping and tucking that Labatt Park does on a nightly basis to ensure the field is smooth and undulation-free.

"It's as functional as any baseball park you'll ever find," said Joe O'Neill, president of the Intercounty Baseball League and the London and District Baseball Association. "If you look at an aerial photograph, you can see the quality of the diamond and how it's maintained. It's at a major-league level."

While I'm more familiar with the dugout and

bullpen benches — considering I was stapled to them most of the summer — I can assure you that the pristine condition of the grass and dirt is a rarity at most facilities across the country.

Especially for a field that allows kids to play in the same sandbox as professionals.

"When 13- and 14-year-old kids show up to play a tournament game on that (field), their eyes are as big as saucers," O'Neill said. "They're getting a chance to play in a park that is put together like a major-league park."

Oddly enough, my eyes get as big as saucers whenever I see the beer concession stand, which is reason enough for Labatt Park to be crowned champion.

MIKE ARSENAULT IS A PITCHER WITH THE LONDON MAJORS AND FREELANCE REPORTER WITH METRO. AND A BEER LOVER.

Central. Struggle



► Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki steals second base on Cord Phelps in Cleveland yesterday.

JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

## Indians fading fast in AL Central

Felix Hernandez struck out 10, Wily Mo Pena drove in four runs and the Seattle Mariners chased Cleveland's Josh Tomlin before the sixth inning yesterday in a 9-2 rout that left the Indians' playoff hopes flickering. Cleveland dropped below .500 for the first time since April 3 and were 6 1/2 games behind the AL Central-leading Detroit Tigers heading into last night's action. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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